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## New Workforce Explorer answers questions about jobs and the economy at the click of a mouse

OLYMPIA – Job seekers, students and businesses wanting up-to-date information on career options, average wages and skills needed for various occupations have a new Internet-based tool to help them succeed.

The Washington State Employment Security Department announced today that Workforce Explorer, an interactive Web site, is now online to deliver information about jobs and the economy.

Workforce Explorer is available at [www.workforceexplorer.com](http://www.workforceexplorer.com). It provides easy access to a wide variety of career-assessment tools, labor-market data, and articles of interest to job seekers, employers, researchers and policymakers. Users can save their favorite information on a personalized page.

“We designed Workforce Explorer to link statistics to real-world questions facing unemployed workers or those looking for better jobs, as well as business,” said Employment Security Commissioner Sylvia P. Mundy.

Job seekers, businesses, students, economists and training planners can use Workforce Explorer to:

- Identify job skills and interests, then match those skills to related occupations.
- Search for jobs and employers.
- Obtain a list of fast-growing occupations and high-wage industries in an area.
- Learn tips on starting a business.
- Discover training opportunities.
- Access wage information, and compare wages for the same job in different parts of the state.
- Find economic indicators including population, property values and unemployment rates for an area.
- Create and save data tables and download them to Excel.

“The user-friendly site makes Employment Security’s research and data available and helpful to the average person,” said Michael Paris, deputy director of Employment Security’s Labor Market and Economic Analysis branch.

An online tour introduces new users to the site’s features. Data is automatically updated and new articles will be added each week.

Workforce Explorer is the result of a collaborative effort among employment agencies at 22 states. Together, they’ve spent several years developing a generic, Internet-based system to deliver labor-market information.

Washington state led the project, which received funds from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration. Individual states are now launching customized systems built upon this database.

“Customer feedback is going to be the key to making Workforce Explorer invaluable,” Paris said.

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